

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1 through 4 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claim 1 is the only independent claim pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 1 through 4 would be allowable if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, set forth in the Official Action is overcome.

Section 112 Rejection

Claims 1 through 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response, without conceding the propriety of the rejection and solely to expedite prosecution, Claim 1 has been amended *inter alia* to delete the text underlying the rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that this Section 112 rejection has been overcome.

Discussion of Amended Claim 1

Claim 1 also has been amended to even further distinguish the invention over the cited art.

A feature of the invention as recited in amended Claim 1 resides in that (i) the image forming apparatus includes transfer bias control means for controlling a voltage applied to the transfer member, and the transfer bias control means sets the voltage in accordance with a resistance value of the transfer member and the selected mode, and (ii) if the resistance values of the transfer member are mutually same, a voltage applied to the transfer member when the resin sheet mode is selected is lower than a voltage applied to said transfer member when the normal mode is selected.

The claimed invention provided can prevent occurrence of the offset image while preventing triboelectrification of the back-up roller. Applicants submit that Kimura, et al. fails to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned feature of the claimed invention.

Dependent Claims

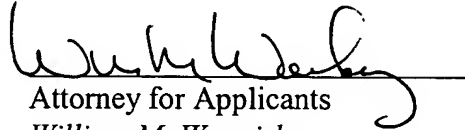
Claims 2 through 4 depend directly from Claim 1 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the claims on file are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wannisky', is written over a horizontal line.

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